

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A laminate for sealing nozzles on print cartridges, comprising:

a moisture retardant base film; and

a hot-melt layer adhesively bonded thereto, the laminate seals the print cartridge nozzles prior to use.

2. The laminate of claim 1 wherein the base film is a polyolefin.

3. The laminate of claim 1 wherein the base film is a polyester.

4. The laminate of claim 1 wherein the laminate additionally seals electrical contacts and leads on print cartridges against corrosion.

5. A laminate for sealing print cartridges, comprising:

a non-woven thin base film having crevices therein; and

a moisture retardant hot-melt layer, said hot-melt flows into the crevices in the base film and mechanically bonds the film and hot-melt layer together.

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6. A print cartridge with sealed nozzles, comprising:

a print cartridge having nozzles through which ink is jetted; and

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a hot-melt layer adhesively bonded to the print cartridge and sealing the nozzles.

7. The print cartridge of claim 6 wherein the print cartridge contains ink; the nozzles are contained in an orifice plate on the print cartridge; and the hot-melt prevents ink from escaping from the print cartridge, prevents ink from attacking materials around the orifice plate, and provides a moisture barrier against corrosion.

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8. The print cartridge of claim 6 wherein the print cartridge has electrical contacts and leads mounted thereon which are also sealed by the hot-melt.

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9. The print cartridge of claim 6 wherein the hot-melt is adhesively bonded to a film having an adhesion with the hot-melt that is greater than the adhesion

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cont

between the hot-melt and the print cartridge.

10. The print cartridge of claim 6 wherein the hot-melt layer is laminated with a moisture retardant base film.

11. The print cartridge of claim 6 where in the hot-melt is heat staked to a moisture retardant pouch material.

12. The print cartridge of claim 6 where in the hot-melt is heat staked to a cardboard sleeve.

13. The print cartridge of claim 6 wherein the hot-melt is block coated on heat stakable pouch material.

14. The print cartridge of claim 6 wherein pouch material is wrapped around the print cartridge and wherein the hot-melt layer is one layer of a laminate, said laminate having a free-end that is captured in the pouch material.

15. A process for sealing a print cartridge having nozzles that jet ink, comprising;

releasably capturing a hot-melt moisture retardant tape;

cutting the tape to size;

positioning the cut tape over the nozzles; and

5 heat staking the tape over the nozzles.

16. The process of claim 15 wherein the tape has a free
end and capturing the free end of the tape in pouch
material and flow wrapping the pouch material
around the print cartridge.

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17. The process of claim 15 wherein the print cartridge
has electrical contacts and leads and further
including positioning the cut tape over the electrical
contacts and leads as well as the nozzles and heat
staking the tape over the electrical contacts and
leads as well as the nozzles.

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18. A process for sealing a print cartridge having nozzles
that jet ink, comprising;

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applying a layer of hot-melt over the nozzles; and

heat staking a moisture retardant layer of material
over the hot-melt.

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19. The process of claim 18 wherein the moisture
retardant material is pouch material.

20. A process for sealing a print cartridge having nozzles that jet ink, comprising;

5 block coating heat stakable pouch material with hot-melt;

positioning the pouch material over the nozzles;

10 heat staking the block coated hot-melt to the nozzles; and

flow wrapping the pouch material around the print cartridge.

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21. The process of claim 20 wherein the print cartridge has electrical contacts and leads and further including:

20 positioning the block coated hot-melt over the electrical contacts and leads as well as the nozzles; and

25 heat staking the block coated hot-melt over the electrical contacts and leads.

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